

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 OMB-01 DHA-05

ACDA-07 /108 W

-----054889 120548Z /17

R 111040Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5171

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION SIANI

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EG, BA, XF, UNGA, UNSC

SUBJECT: BAHRAINI VIEW OF ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

REF: (A) CAIRO 14884 (B) CAIRO 14876

1. FOREIGN MINISTER SHAIKH MOHAMMAD BIN MUBARAK AL KHALIFA TOLD ME SEPT. 11 THAT DOMINANT MOOD OF AL MEETING WAS ONE OF ENNUI. WHILE DELEGATES WRESTLED WITH WORDS, RESOLUTIONS, AND PREDICTABLE INTER-ARAB SQUABBLING, THEY WERE "BOMBARDED" DAILY BY REPORTS OF NEW, SECRET, OR PROJECTED ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. USG RESPONSES TO THESE ISRAELI MOVES WERE WELCOMED BUT WERE SEEN FROM CAIRO AS WEAK AND WITHOUT RESULT.

2. FONMIN CONFIRMED THAT ARABS WILL WORK HARD WITH NON-ALIGNED AND ISLAMIC GROUPS AT UNGA TO GET WIDEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAELI ACTIVITIES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, REAFFIRMING APPLICABILITY OF GENEVA CONVENTIONS, AND CALLING ON UN MEMBER STATES TO ASSURE THAT ISRAEL CEASES SUCH ACTIVITIES. QUESTION OF MOVING THIS ISSUE, AS WELL AS UNGA RESOLUTION ON PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, TO SECURITY COUNCIL LEFT FOR THE MOMENT WITH SEVEN MEMBER COMMITTEE (FONMIN WOULD NOT LIST COMMITTEE MEMBERS).

3. SHAIKH MOHAMMAD SAID THERE WERE HEATED EXCHANGES IN SOME SESSIONS BUT THAT HE FELT THEY WERE PRO-FORMA AND FOR THE RECORD. SAID HE FELT EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN SNIPING AT ONE ANOTHER DUE LESS TO DEEP DIFFERENCES ON SUBSTANCE THAN TO SYRIAN MANEUVERING TO LEAVE EGYPTIANS AND SAUDIS OUT FRONT AND EGYPTIAN ANNOYANCE AT CONTINUING SUCCESS OF THIS SYRIAN TACTIC. FONMIN SAID HE FELT MAJORITY OF DELEGATES CONTINUE CONFIDENTIAL

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TO SUPPORT SAUDI-EGYPTIAN STRATEGY AND TACTICS. HE DID NOT FEEL MODERATE OUTCOME WAS PARTICULARLY "HARD WON" IN REAL TERMS THOUGH THE RHETORIC MADE IT APPEAR SO. FONMIN SAID HES BILATERAL TALKS INCLUDED HIS EGYPTIAN, SYRIAN, AND JORDANIAN COUNTERPARTS. FROM THESE TALKS HE SAID HE FELT CERTAIN THAT EGYPT AND JORDAN WOULD GO TO NEW YORK WITH DRAFT PEACE TREATIES. SYRIANS, HE FELT, WOULD NOT. SAID HE THOUGHT SYRIANS MIGHT NOT GO BEYOND RESTATING POSITION THAT ISRAELI COMMITMENT TO FULL WITHDRAWAL AND RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL RIGHTS COULD LEAD TO SIGNING OF PEACE TREATY, PROVISIONS OF WHICH WOULD AT THIS STAGE REMAIN VAGUE.

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4. FINMIN SAID THAT MOST DELEGATES WITH WHOM HE TALKED
STILL SHARE STRONG BELIEF IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S SINCERITY
BUT THAT THERE IS GROWING PESSIMISM ABOUT WHAT HE WILL BE
WILLING AND ABLE TO DO. ON SUBJECT OF FORMAL US-PLO CONTACT,
FONMIN CONFIRMED THAT THERE IS STILL INTEREST IN ACHIEVING
IT BUT THAT IT WAS FORMALLY DISCUSSED. HE SAID THAT
IN CORRIDOR DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION THERE EMERGED
FEELING THAT USG WAS NOT PLAYING MEDIATOR ROLE ENTIRELY

FAIRLY. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT IT IS PROPER FOR
USG AS MEDIATOR TO SAY TO PLO THAT IT "MUST" ACCEPT 242 TO PROVE ITS
BONA FIDES AS SEEKER OF REAL PEACE. USG HAS SAID TO ARAB
STATES THAT THEY "MUST" BE FLEXIBLE ON NATURE OF PEACE,
AND ARABS HAVE BEEN FORTHCOMING. WHY IS NOT USG SAYING TO
ISRAEL THAT THERE ARE THINGS IT TOO "MUST" DO, SUCH AS
CEASE SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES IN OCCUPIED AREAS, TO PROVE
ITS BONA FIDES? MEDIATOR CAN AND SHOULD SET SOME BASIC
CONDITIONS, BUT FOR BOTH SIDES.
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Message Attributes

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